

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 26

1230 Hours November 4, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2005, 0930 hours

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily.

Beginning Monday, November 7, 2005 Situation Reports will be issued on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought - like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: **Southwest VA: Friday 4 November** – Mostly sunny, high temperatures upper 60s to low 70s, Southwest winds 5 to 10 MPH. Friday night – Partly cloudy, low temperatures low 50s, South winds 5 to 10 MPH.

Saturday 5 November – Partly cloudy, high temperatures upper 60s to low 70s, South winds 5 to 10 MPH. Saturday night – Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers in the evening, then mostly cloudy with a chance of showers after midnight. Low temperatures in low to mid 50s, South winds 5 to 15 MPH. Chance of precipitation 40%.

Sunday 6 November – Partly cloudy, high temperatures mid to upper 60s, Southwest winds 5 to 15 MPH. Chance of precipitation 40%. Sunday night – Partly cloudy, low temperatures low to mid 40s. Chance of precipitation 20%.

Monday 7 November – Mostly sunny, high temperatures low to mid 60s.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting:

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

ESF 8 – Health & Medical:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Dr. Sue Cantrell is the State point of contact. ***There have been no new reported cases of gastrointestinal illness. One new case of chicken pox was reported last Thursday. Local Health Department is no longer monitoring reported cases of gastrointestinal illnesses.***

Mt. Empire Older Citizens group distributing bottled water to at risk citizens with low income. Water distribution to special needs on medically restricted extremely low sodium diets to continue. VDH will monitor food establishment's compliance with plans, and will monitor results of on going water tests. VDH is compiling reports on current and future water sources.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. ***Twelve soldiers remain on mission. VEOC has requested a timetable for continuing blivet management.***

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. ***VEOC has requested a more detailed account of actual daily water output from all water sources being utilized. This accounting will be shared with all interested parties.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

There is a renewed emphasis with Public Service Announcements to inform citizens the situation has not improved and still remains critical. ***Town Engineer to investigate amount of water in one cave and projects this source will diminish due to the drought conditions. Current Powell River stream flow is 16cfs. Big Cherry Dam valve is slightly opened to maintain fish and wildlife. No water is being drawn from Big Cherry reservoir as water source.*** Plans are being made to winterize temporary water facilities. Local Incident Management Team continues to develop long range plans including evaluating alternate water sources. Town of Big Stone Gap acquired and installed a pump to provide water to Cracker Neck section of town.

Wise County submitting Local Situation Report daily. County officials are preparing reports requested by DEQ. ***Appalachia and Norton reservoir water levels are decreasing. Both localities might be forced to withdraw as additional suppliers to Big Stone Gap Norton has reported the city is potentially 20 days away from a water emergency.***

Wise County is receiving inquiries from local citizens about using private wells as alternate water sources. Investigation has begun to utilize Public Service Authority/Dorchester as an additional water source.

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